

Gally House, 536-42 Chartres Street
New Orleans, Louisiana

HABS No. La.-29

HABS

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORIC AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Louisiana

Historic American Buildings Survey
Richard Koch, District Officer
309 Stern Building, New Orleans, Louisiana

GALLY HOUSE

536 Chartres Street New Orleans Orleans Parish Louisiana

Owner: Andre' S. Wogan

Date of Erection: After 1830.

Builder: Louis Gally (owner).

Architect: Unknown.

Present Condition: Poor.

Number of Stories: Three and attic.

Materials of Construction: Red brick with wood cornice and wrought iron balconies. Hipped slate roof, dormer windows. Courtyard with slave quarters in rear.

Other existing records:

Chain of Title in New Orleans Courthouse (attached hereto)

Old New Orleans by Stanley Clisby Arthur; (Site of
First Fire, pg. 202) Harmanson, Publisher, New Orleans,
1936

Additional Data:

On the site of the disastrous fire of March 21, 1788, today stands the GALLY HOUSE, a distinctive three-story brick building, so characteristic of New Orleans with its blending of French ironwork and details faintly reminiscent of American sources.

Built after 1830 by Major Gally in what was then the fashionable shopping district of New Orleans, the first floor was used for business and the upper floors as apartments. The house is crowded on a small lot; studies of the plan and of the details leave no doubt that the property was built to bring in the greatest

return on the investment. Interior cornices which are found in similar houses are omitted and the interior details, after being measured, were distinctly disappointing, but there is no house in New Orleans of this period that is so well proportioned or of such excellent design.

The first floor has arched openings, the sashes of which are probably not the originals. No doubt there were blinds that folded back in two sections, as at the Labatut Mansion, 623 Royal Street (HABS No. La.-143). At the second floor is an iron railing of French design. An engraving was recently brought back from Paris by a local book dealer that had been part of an architect's scrap book; the date or source is not known, but the design is identical. The second floor openings are typical of this period; the transoms are decorated and the transom bar returns in the panelled jamb of the opening. The lintels are cast iron, painted white and Greek Revival in feeling. The third story windows are casements opening in, that originally came down to the floor and had an iron railing, as is seen in numerous examples on Royal Street. The lower panels were closed later, as is evidenced by the patched brickwork. These windows have louver blinds in contrast to the panelled shutters of the lower floors.

The cornice of wood with the lovely carved Adam swags in the frieze and with the high pitched slate roof is the dominant feature of the design. Similar examples of this cornice are to be found in Royal and Bourbon Streets, but none have its delicacy

and restraint. So that the top member of the cornice with its concealed gutter may be as light as possible, the soffit rests on one-half by two inch iron straps. The dormers are well designed with semi-circular heads, somewhat French in character but quite American in detail and scale. As is common in New Orleans, the ~~lower~~ roof of the dormer butts into the semi-circular headed front. Flashing at this point was difficult and none of this type remains today in perfect condition. The slate used is what is known as "Welsh"; probably a purple slate that is now a faded grayish pink. There are manifests of that date which show these were probably imported from England.

The interior detail, local Classical Revival in feeling, has a narrow moulded trim with corner blocks undecorated and high plinth blocks at the base. The stair is good, of French plan with its danced winders to give a smooth curve to the rail; a feature that in a few years was forgotten. Also characteristic of that period is the fan light over the ^{folding} ~~sliding~~ door of the double parlours.

The servants quarters, where was also the privys, is an interesting outbuilding with the stepped side wall and the curved brick wall connecting with the main house. This is a local feature of which few examples remain. Unfortunately the courtyard is too small to show properly the arched openings of the lower floor and the upper fanlight of the hall.

Louis Gally, the builder, was born in France in 1794 and came to New Orleans about 1830. The "Battallion d'Artillerie"

was founded by him and during the Mexican War he served as a Major. His protrait hangs on the walls of the stairway of the Cabildo. He died in 1860 and was buried in St. Louis Cemetery No. 2.

CHAIN OF TITLE

Square No. 27 Lot No. 21 Assessed at \$5,100.00
Size 47.25 feet by 69.25 feet.

COB 455 - pg. 469 June 10, 1930.

Succession of Miss Louise Celine Gally and Mrs. Marie Leontine Gally, Widow of Aloide Wogan,

Judgment putting in possession L. Andre' Wogan, son of the deceased Mrs. Marie Leontine Gally; Two certain lots of ground with buildings, improvements, etc., in the Second District in square bounded by Chartres, Toulouse, Levee and St. Louis Streets, measuring 22' front on Chartres Street by 70' in depth and front on Toulouse Streets, and the other lot adjoining, measuring 26' front on Chartres Street by a depth of 70', the whole in American measure.

COB 105 - pg. 251 March 7, 1874

Hypolite Gally to Misses Celine Gally and Leontine Gally - By act passed before A. Ducatel, New Orleans, March 6, 1874.

Two lots of ground as per above description, obtained by inheritance, Judgment No. 11171 rendered December 30, 1856, not registered. Sale made for \$17,000.00 cash.

Same lots acquired by Louis Gally, father of Hippolyte, from Manuel Andry, as per Act before Felix des Armas, June 23, 1830.

F. des Armas - Act 603 June 23, 1830

Sale of lots as per above description - Manuel Andry to Louis Gally, public auction, May 29, 1830, forming part of a lot of ground acquired by Manuel Landry from Christoval des Armas; Act before Pierre Pedesolaux, N. P., February 21, 1807. Consideration \$12,000.00

Act of Pierre Pedesolaux February 2, 1807

Christophe des Armas sold to Manuel Andry, a lot with all buildings thereon, situate corner of Toulouse and Chartres Streets, etc., etc.

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Christophe des Armas acquired from Louis Duchene, as
per act before Ferd. Rodriguez, January 15, 1788. Consideration
\$18,000.00

Acts of January 15, 1788 lost. No plans.

(YEAR OF FIRST FIRE)

March 24, 1937

Approved

Richard Koch, District Officer
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
IN LOUISIANA

-116, 5/2/37